

EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Fairford,

Exmouth.

March, 1st 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Exeter Port Health Authority.

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Gentleman,

Herewith I beg to present the Annual Report for the year ending December, 31st 1943. Owing to the prevailing conditions, and as directed by the Ministry it is considerably condensed.

TABLE A.

About the same number of vessels entered the Port as in 1942. The majority carried cargoes of Coal, and a few flour, which in every case was in good condition from a dietetic point of view.

Every vessel was boarded, inspected and the crews interrogated. The general Sanitation was satisfactory and no cases of illness, infectious or otherwise were reported. No signs of rat infestation were observed on any vessel. Some rats may have been destroyed in the Docks and Quays, but as there is very little food stored on these premises, the number would be inconsiderable.

FOOD INSPECTION.

This Authority recognises the danger of gas-contaminated food, and has made adequate arrangements to deal with any emergency which might arise therefrom.

MUSSELS.

A case of contravention of the Regulations which may be cited as the Exeter (Shell-fish) Regulations, was reported during the year. Legal opinion was taken regarding the advisability of instituting legal proceedings against the offender. This was not considered expedient in the present instance. The person responsible was thereupon summoned before a Meeting of the Authority and warned by the Chairman of the serious consequences to which he would be liable on a repetition of the offence.

On several occasions I have inspected the apparatus for the sterilization of mussels at the Docks, installed by the Exe Shell-fish Company. It is efficient and working satisfactorily.

TYPHUS FEVER AND SMALLPOX.

The danger of these diseases being introduced into the Port during the prevailing abnormal conditions has not been lost sight of, and the necessary precautions for their treatment and isolation are available immediately.

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, the Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, ^{the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926,} & the Public Health (Preservatives, &c in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927. NONE REQUIRED.

(2) Number of Samples of Food examined by:-

(a) Bacteriologist.

Nature of Sample. Result of Examination. NIL.

(b) Analyst.

Nature of Sample. Result of Examination. NIL.

THE SUBSIDIARY PORT OF TOPSHAM.

This Port was periodically visited, There was nothing of importance to record.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital offers free treatment for these diseases to all seamen and others. For their information a leaflet is given to the Masters of all vessels entering the Port, detailing the days and hours of treatment.

The Annual Report of Inspections made in Exeter by Mr Bonham, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is appended hereto.

Yours faithfully,

C. Beesley. M. O. H.

PORT HEALTH INSPECTIONS IN EXETER, ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1943.

During the year 1943 the number of visits made to the Port of Exeter was 38.

Coastwise vessels carrying inward cargoes were inspected as follows:-

With cargoes of flour	3
" " " cement	4

All of the flour was in good condition and caused no irregularity in the Regulations.

Sanitation of the vessels was good and the crews when interrogated reported "all well".

Several consignments of salted codfish, received ex rail, by the Newfoundland and Labrador Fish Co. were inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

On each visit the wharves and warehouses were inspected and a constant look out was kept for rat infestation.

While there were no complaints made of rat infestation by the occupiers of the warehouses, very large numbers of rats were destroyed along the Canal Banks and within 100 yards of the Quay on the City side. Rat destruction in the locality of the Quay is having constant attention.

Arthur E. Bonham.

Chief Inspector.

